GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2442
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2004
PATENT APPLICATIONS
Nambadan Shri Lonappan

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the `mail box` protection is available for products patent applications filed after 1 st January, 1995;

(b) if so, the number of applications that have been filed under the `mail box` protection till date and number of those falling with the classification of drugs; and

(c) the details with respect to applications filed by the foreign nationals, foreign corporations, Indian nationals and Indian corporations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN)

(a): Product patent applications in the fields of medicine or drug can be filed in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Patents Act, 1970, as amended by the Patents (Amendment) Act, 1999. As per provisions of section 24A, these applications are to be kept pending till 31st December, 2004. Such applications are popularly known as `Mail Box` applications.

(b): The total number of `Mail Box` applications received so far in the Patent Office is 5637 of which 4792 related to the pharmaceutical field.

(c): The information is as under:

I Foreign nationals	7
II Foreign Corporations	4398
III Indian nationals	122
IV Indian corporations	1110